



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

May 2, 2001



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

BATON ROUGE AREA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION DAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 5

The annual Greater Baton Rouge Paint Swap and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, co-sponsored by the Dow Chemical Company, the East Baton Rouge Recycling Office and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), will be held **Saturday, May 5 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.** This year's event will be held at a new location: **Residents are asked to bring their household hazardous waste to the Scenic Highway entrance of Memorial Stadium.**

Dow Chemical has co-sponsored the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for many years. Since 1992, this increasingly popular morning event has been held to collect a wide range of household hazardous waste products that range from bleach to antifreeze to weed killer.

The May 5 event also includes the annual DEQ Paint Swap. The public is invited to drop off unused paint and varnish for free pickup by interested groups and individuals. Non-profit organizations, charities, redevelopment projects, churches and schools are encouraged to fax specific requests to DEQ's Environmental Assistance Division at 225-765-0921 by May 4th. Good, usable latex paint will be blended and given away in five-gallon containers. Oil-based paint, stain and varnish in original containers will also be offered to interested groups and individuals. These items must be picked up between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on May 5, the day of the event.

"The amount of materials collected from the public during Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day has increased every year," noted J. Dale Givens, DEQ secretary. "This means people are becoming more aware that improper disposal of household hazardous materials can contaminate our water, land and air."

During the morning of May 5 only, residents of Baton Rouge and surrounding communities will be able to drop off insecticides, pesticides, cleaning products, volatile solvents, waste tires, fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil and other materials. Eighty-five percent of household hazardous wastes are typically recyclable antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint.

Many products that consumers routinely throw into the garbage--such as cleaners and insecticides--are actually similar to hazardous substances used in industrial processes. Improper storage increases the risk of accidental poisoning, and disposal of these products in household garbage can cause fires in dumpsters, release pollutants into the air or contaminate ground water under solid waste landfills. Materials placed in drains flow directly to septic tanks or sewage treatment plants, which cannot properly treat most of these substances. The result is discharges of pollutants or improperly treated sewage into waterways.

Information about paint disposal and recycling is available from the "What About Paint" page on the DEQ web site <http://www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/safewaste/index.htm> or by telephoning DEQ's Environmental Assistance Division at (225) 765-0149. Additional information about common materials in our homes that are potentially hazardous is provided in the "Household Hazardous Materials" page on DEQ's web site.